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THE ALBERTA



## Counsellor

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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EDMONTON, ALBERTA

December, 1961

## WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

## ROGERS ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE

## ASSOCIATION HOLDS GOOD MEET

Delegates representing the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties ended their 53rd Annual Convention at Edmonton's Macdonald Hotel November 17 by listening to an address by Hon. L.C. Halmrast, Minister of Agriculture, and discussing the last of forty-two resolutions presented to them. Other members of the Executive Council addressing the convention were Hon. A.R. Patrick, Minister of Industry and Development; Hon. A.J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Hon. A.O. Aalborg, Minister of Education; and Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways.

Official delegates attending the four-day conference numbered 267 representing all 31 municipal districts and 17 counties in the Province. The 319 visitors included 167 ladies.

Executive for 1961-62 is headed by J.M. McKay, Brant, who was elected by acclamation on Thursday to the position of President for his third term. Also returned by acclamation for his third term was Vice-President G.W. Moyer of Fort Saskatchewan. Director J.F. Smith, Fairview, was not up for re-election, but C.L. Doan, Innisfail, was returned in District one, while W.J. Rogers of Millet was elected a director by delegates of District two for his first term of office.

In his presidential address Mr. McKay spoke highly of Alberta's new Foundation Program but warned against unapproved costs in both the hospital and educational fields. He said the plan depends upon uniform equalized assessments and to this end thought exemptions of real property should be eliminated.

Mr. McKay pointed out that from the first of next year only 20 counties will be in operation. Many local authorities were frustrated, he said, because of doubts about their future status. He expressed favor for urban counties and wanted to see county organization proceed at a faster rate.

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During the opening session, certificates were presented to a number of secretary-treasurers, assessors and others who have completed three years of study with the Public Administration Division of the University. Those assisting in the presentation were Duncan Campbell, Dr. A.W. Reeves and Don Bancroft from the University of Alberta, as well as Hon. A.J. Hooke and J.M. McKay.

## DOING A FINE JOB

Municipal and county councillors were complimented for doing "a mighty fine job" by Mr. Hooke during his address to the convention Wednesday morning. Speaking before a crowded convention hall, Mr. Hooke asked councillors to insist on full value for all local expenditures and urged them to keep as close as possible to a pay-as-you-go policy. He said those suggesting long-term expenditures may have a point, but too often the debt remains long after the building or the road (for which it was incurred) is gone.

Mr. Hooke observed that the School Foundation Program is now almost one year old and said postponement of the program as requested by some would have simply meant the loss of a year's progress. He recalled early criticism of large school divisions and municipal districts and said no one would revert now to the old forms.

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## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Paul told the Phillipians "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Peace of mind is the richest gift of all. May it be yours in full measure this Christmas season and throughout the coming year.

Deputy Minister

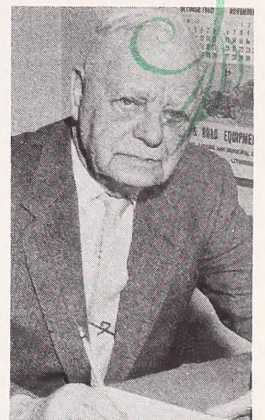
Minister

## FRED BROADSTOCK PASSES

Veteran of the South African, the First and Second World Wars, William Frederick Broadstock died November 11 after a brief illness. He was 79.

Mr. Broadstock was also a veteran in municipal work, having joined the staff of the old Municipal District of Spruce Grove as assessor and assistant secretary-treasurer in 1935. Three years later he moved into the senior position serving until 1949 when he was appointed secretary-treasurer of the newly-incorporated village of Jasper Place. He remained there until his retirement at the end of 1960.

Mr. Broadstock's record of participation in all twenty-three refresher courses held by the Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers was shared by few men. His familiar figure and his counsel will long be remembered.



## PANEL DISCUSSIONS POPULAR

## ALBERTA PLANNERS GATHER

Public relations for Alberta's planning offices are improving, Hon. A.J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs, told the opening session of the Alberta Planning Conference held in the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium November 9 and 10. The conference showed a record 150 persons registered from all parts of the Province. Mr. Hooke said he drew his conclusion from the "drastically reduced number of complaints" now being directed against planning activity. He urged those in charge to "do a good selling job" and stressed the importance of safeguarding individual freedom.

Noel Dant, Director of Town and Rural Planning and executive member of the Provincial Planning Advisory Board, also addressed the conference and quoted statements from eastern Canada complimenting Alberta on planning legislation in effect here.

During reports made by city and district planning offices, it was pointed out that over 76 per cent of Alberta's population live in municipalities that are members of district planning commissions. In outlining the activities of the Provincial Planning Advisory Board

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THE SECOND PAGE . . .

The VISIT of the SHEPHERDS

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

o St. Luke

FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION . . .

Last month the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties held its annual convention in Edmonton. Officials of Alberta's rural municipalities again came together to discuss their problems and to make recommendations to the Provincial Government for the welfare of their people and the greater efficiency of local administration. This was the fifty-third Annual Convention of the AAMD. It has been going on now for fifty-two years.

It all began on November 17, 1909, in the Oddfellows Hall over the river in Strathcona. No record seems to have been made of who instigated the whole thing beyond the simple entry with which B.E. Andrews began his minutes of the meeting:

"The Convention of Delegates called by the Council of L.I.D. 26 - S - 4 met this day at 10 a.m. in the Oddfellows Hall, Strathcona.

"B.E. Andrews, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council of L.I.D. 26 - S - 4 called the meeting to order and stated the objects of the convention.

"Wm. Mason, of Bon Accord, was elected chairman pro tem and B.E. Andrews, of Strathcona, was elected secretary pro tem."

Two rather full days were spent in discussing resolutions and listening to addresses. It was duly reported by Secretary Andrews that Premier A.B. Rutherford, and R. J. Telford, M.P.P. for Leduc, had accepted invitations to be present. On the other hand, Hon. W.H. Cushing, Minister of Public Works, and Hon. Mr. Finlay, Minister of Agriculture, had sent their regrets. This might have ended the matter had not a delegate stated "that Hon. W.H. Cushing had come up to Edmonton on the late train on the previous evening" so it was moved at once that "a committee of three be a deputation to wait on the Minister of Public Works during the noon hour with the view of obtaining his consent to address this meeting."

The minutes record the fact that J.R. Boyle, M.P.P. for Sturgeon, addressed the delegates during the afternoon but evidently Mr. Cushing was indeed unable to be present.

An evening session was held on Thursday, November 18, at which Chairman Wm. Mason "briefly gave the delegates present his views on the subject of forming a permanent organization of Local Improvement Districts." It was "moved by John J. Hope, seconded by Herbert Greenfield, that the organization proposed be called 'The Alberta Local Improvement Districts Association' and that the officers of said Association be a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and an Executive Committee composed of five members. Carried."

About two months later a meeting of delegates was called by T. Hammond of Pincher Creek to meet in Linton's Hall, Calgary. Jas. McNicol of Blackfalds was appointed secretary and his minutes record the fact that "Hon. W.H. Cushing spoke briefly and outlined in brief what might be the policy in the future of the Department and government in regard to Local Improvement Districts."

Back in Edmonton for another meeting on March 4, 1910, many of the same delegates were informed during the proceedings by Mr. Lang that he "had succeeded in making an appointment with the Premier at 11 a.m." According to the minutes the committee then "proceeded to the Parliament Buildings where they were favorably received by the Premier, who as Treasurer and Acting Minister of Public Works, stated that he would consider favorably the granting of a sum to defray the expenses of the Association. Four hundred dollars was the amount suggested and Mr. Mason, spokesman for the committee, thanked the Premier in appropriate terms for his assurances."

The purpose for which the Association was formed has remained

much the same since those first meetings more than fifty years ago. Apart from personnel of course, the biggest change in the Association is in its name. That has been altered a time or two so as to keep abreast of the times.

... AND SEVEN YEARS LATER

"The Nomination of Officers for the ensuing year followed and the subsequent election resulted in the following Executive for 1916 - 17:

- "President - J.H. Lamb, Youngstown.
- "Vice-President - W.J. Jackman, Bremner, Secretary-Treasurer, L.I.D. No. 518. Mr. E. Pinchbeck had an equal number of votes with Mr. Jackman, but withdrew in favor of the latter.
- "Directors - H.W. Bright, Macleod, L.I.D. No. 69, A.J. Donahoe, Altorado, R.M. No. 34. The name of the retiring President, Mr. H. Greenfield, was added to the list of Honorary Presidents".

The above record comes from the report of proceedings of the seventh annual convention of the Alberta Association of Local Improvement Districts and Rural Municipalities. The place ... Albion Hall, Edmonton. The time ... February 16-18, 1916.

That year the First World War was 18 months old. Resolutions dealt with such problems as discounts on taxes, assessment rolls, coyote and gopher control, noxious weeds, drainage and the right of rate-payers "to vote on the question of changing from an L.I.D. to a Rural Municipality.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Alberta Association of Local Improvement Districts and Rural Municipalities for 1916-17 from the left: W.J. Jackman, Vice-President; H.W. Bright, Director; J.H. Lamb, President; Jas. McNicol, Secretary-Treasurer; A.J.H. Donahoe, Director.

Mr. Jackman became Secretary-Treasurer in 1918 and served for five years. His son, C.W. Jackman, is now Economist with Alberta's Department of Mines and Minerals. Mr. Donahoe was President from 1919 to 1922.

(Hess Photo)

THIS MONTH

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**HON. A. O. AALBORG REVIEWS**

. . . also URBAN COUNTIES &amp; TEACHERS-IN-TRAINING

**ALBERTA'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM****AN ADDRESS TO THE CONVENTION OF THE  
ALBERTA SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION**

This afternoon I shall confine my remarks to three subjects. I would like to review the operations of the Foundation Program of School Finance to date. Also, I intend to make some comments on the proposal to establish counties in a city and a town on an experimental basis which was broached by my colleague, Honourable A. J. Hooke, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, at the recent Annual Convention of the Union of Municipalities and which I understand will be given further study at this Convention. I propose to deal with the dramatic upsurge in the enrolment of teachers-in-training at the Faculty of Education this fall which is such excellent news for all of us because of the impact it is certain to have in further strengthening and in improving the programs offered by our schools.

**FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

In reviewing the operation of the Foundation Program may I, first of all, express my sincere appreciation to all Trustees of the Province for the splendid co-operation which they have given the Department of Education and its officers by assisting in every possible way to implement this new system. At a Special Convention of your Association, held on Friday, March 24th, I outlined the purposes of the Program and the principles on which it is founded. I recall that the delegates showed a very lively interest in the whole matter and asked numerous pertinent and searching questions to probe all features and aspects of the new plan. After much discussion and with some strong dissenting voices this Special Convention passed a resolution endorsing the new program in principle. Following the introduction of the new system in April, all school boards and their office staffs have been most cooperative and helpful in putting the new plan into operation in their own areas and in completing the numerous forms and returns required by the Department. School boards that encountered problems in carrying out the new Program have brought them to the Department and discussed them fully and frankly. Many helpful suggestions and much good advice have been received. The cooperation and good will of Trustees in putting the new Program into effect has been most valuable. Along with all officers of the Department I am grateful for these efforts. I know we can look forward with confidence to receiving from Trustees their continued cooperation and their honest and constructive criticism so that the Program may function well and fairly in all parts of the Province.

By now Trustees are thoroughly familiar with the nature of the Foundation Program and the mechanics of its operation so I shall not spend any time in rehashing these matters. Instead, I would like to summarize a few major results and developments in connection with the Program that have appeared during its first year of operation and I would also like to discuss briefly four major criticisms of the Program which were heard quite frequently when it was introduced last spring.

Most school boards were able to balance their budgets with revenues from the Foundation Program Fund or with some additional revenue from local requisitions which did not raise the school mill rate on equalized assessment this year above the school mill rate on equalized assessment in 1960. Of a total of 200 school boards in the Province 107 were able to balance their budgets with the revenues received from the Fund and 52 needed a local requisition which did not have the effect of raising the mill rate on equalized assessment in 1961 above the mill rate on equalized assessment in 1960. 41 school boards were not able to balance their budgets on the revenues received from the Foundation Program Fund and made local requisitions which increased the mill rate on equalized assessment in 1961 above the mill rate on equalized assessment in 1960. These boards are eligible for contingency grants which will total \$3,172,724.

In 1961 the Foundation Program Fund will receive a total of at least \$50,474,724 from the Province. With the equalized assessment of all municipalities presently at a figure of \$1,641,199,539 it is expected that the 32 mill requisition of the Department on this assessment will yield \$52,518,385. The total revenue of the Fund is the sum of these two amounts, or \$102,991,109, all of which will be distributed to school boards in accordance with the Foundation Program Formula. In addition to these payments, school boards also expect to collect approximately \$6,500,000 in local requisitions and \$4,000,-

000 from minor grants and other minor sources of revenue to bring their total receipts to a record figure of \$113,491,909 as compared with \$102,931,127 in 1960.

In preparing their budgets in 1961 school boards scrutinized their estimates with more than usual care and, as a result, many economies and savings were effected. Such vigilance is very necessary in these times of rising costs and must be continued and intensified in the future.

The rates of school taxes were generally lower this year than they might otherwise have been had the Program not been introduced. In some municipalities the school mill rate was higher than in 1960, in some it remained unchanged, but in many cases the mill rate dropped. I shall enlarge on this point in dealing with the major criticisms of the Program.

Only two municipalities appealed school board requisitions to the Local Authorities Board. The Town of Peace River appealed the requisition of the Peace River School Division, and the Town of Jasper Place appealed the requisitions of both the Public and Separate School Districts of the Town. The flood of appeals predicted in some quarters when the Program was introduced did not materialize.

**FOUR MAJOR CRITICISMS**

Turning to the four major criticisms of the Program which were heard over and over again early this year, you will recall that one was to the effect that introduction of the Program should be postponed for a year while it was being given closer study. Since all parties concerned, including your own Association, were consulted before the Program was introduced, and since all were given an opportunity to be heard by the Agricultural Committee of the Legislature during the 1961 Session, there appeared to be no purpose in delaying the Program. Experience to date has reaffirmed this conclusion.

Then there were those who were fearful that the quality of education would suffer as a result of the program. Not a shred or scrap of evidence has yet been produced that the quality of education has declined anywhere because of the Program, but there is considerable evidence that in some areas the quality of education has improved. It would appear that thus far the Program has had the effect of equalizing upward and not downward.

Another oft repeated criticism was that the Program would shift more of the burden of school costs to municipal ratepayers. However, since total school requisitions, including both the Department's requisition of 32 mills and local requisitions by school boards, rose by less than \$5,000,000 in 1961 above the total of all requisitions in 1960, as compared with an increase of approximately \$7,500,000 in 1960 above 1959, the Program has not had this effect during the first year of operation at least. Total school requisitions throughout the Province in 1959 stood at \$46,661,466. In 1960 they climbed to \$54,353,719, but in 1961 this increase slackened to a total of \$59,018,385.

Finally, there were those who said that this system would tend

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Hon. ANDERS O. AALBORG has been Alberta's Minister of Education for more than nine years, having received his appointment September 9, 1952.

Mr. Aalborg was born at McLaughlin, north east of Wainwright, on August 24, 1914. Attending Normal at Edmonton, he taught school in Alberta for 19 years and at the time of his election to the Legislature in 1948 was principal of Allister School at Rivercourse. From the beginning he interested himself in the problems of his profession and at one time served as vice-president of the Alberta Teachers' Association.



## ALBERTA'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM

(From Page 3)

to weaken or maybe destroy the autonomy of school boards. Experience thus far does not substantiate this claim. As in the past, all school boards may requisition upon their municipal collecting authorities for additional funds if this becomes necessary. This right has not been curtailed. Contrary to earlier expectations, it would appear that school boards are more likely to exercise their autonomy in a more careful and responsible manner now than formerly. If school boards are informed well in advance of budgeting each year exactly what they can expect to receive from provincial sources, as they will be when the Program enters its second year of operation in 1962, they will know what additional funds must come from the pockets of their own ratepayers. Elected officials at all levels of government, including school boards, tend to grow more responsible in the exercise of their autonomy when they know that any extra funds they require must be extracted directly from the pockets of the people who elect them to office.

At this point perhaps a few observations regarding the Foundation Program Formula for 1962 may be in order. This matter is presently being given full and thorough study by the Department and in the very near future representatives of your Association will be invited to discuss the matter with officials of the Department. It appears that several changes in the Formula will be desirable and it is hoped that these can be finalized and announced before the end of this year or very early in the new year. A Program as large in scope and as far reaching in its effects as the Foundation Program cannot be fully and fairly assessed on the experience of one year alone. This can be done only after the Program has been in operation for at least two or three years. Up to the present time, however, it would appear that the Program which was designed to be flexible in its application, particularly during its first year of operation, has proven quite successful and is a marked improvement over the previous system.

## URBAN COUNTIES

At this point let us turn our attention to the proposal that was mentioned by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Honourable A. J. Hooke, in speaking to the recent Convention of the Alberta Union of Municipalities—the proposal to introduce the county system of local government in one of the cities and in one of the towns of the Province on an experimental basis. This system of local government was first introduced in Alberta in 1950 when the Legislature passed The County Act which provided for the establishment of counties in rural areas only. Since that time 17 counties have been formed within coterminous school and municipal areas, and three more, Clover Bar, St. Paul and Castor, will be established on January 1, 1962. Because this type of joint local administration of school and municipal affairs has proven successful in all seventeen areas where it is now in effect, and is generally regarded by the residents of these areas as an improvement over the former dual system of administration, it appears entirely probable that it will continue to grow until it has been adopted everywhere in the rural areas of the Province. In view of this trend it now seems reasonable to suggest that serious thought be given to using this system in cities and in some towns. In order that an opportunity may be provided to explore this possibility enabling legislation is being drafted for study and consideration at the 1962 Session of the Legislature.

Experience with the county system of local government in rural areas justified the conclusion that this system would have distinct advantages if adopted in the larger urban centres of the Province.

The county system of local government is based on the principle that there should be one local or civic government for all local or civic purposes. Those who have already declared themselves as opposed to the county system in cities may have overlooked or forgotten this sound fundamental principle which is certainly well understood and accepted with little or no question when it applies to national or provincial affairs. Canada has one National Government for all national purposes. Canadians would regard it as unthinkable to elect one government to manage foreign affairs and another government to manage domestic matters. Alberta has one government for all provincial purposes. Would it not seem absurd to elect one provincial government to be responsible for health and a second government to deal with all other provincial matters? When it comes to local administration in the City of Edmonton, however, the people elect three local governments, one to administer the Separate School District, another to administer the Public School District, and a third to have jurisdiction over all other civic matters. There are those who will hasten to point out that local governments are founded to a large extent on the traditions and customs of the past, and that is common practice of long standing not only across Canada but in other countries,

too, for the people to elect local governments in the same area that are largely independent of each other and that are specialized in their duties and functions. But in the end this consideration does not detract from the soundness of the basic principle I have mentioned nor should it prevent us from following this principle in Alberta as has already been done in the case of counties in many rural areas. If it makes good sense to have one National Government for all national purposes, and one Provincial Government for all provincial purposes, then why would it not also make good sense to have one local government for all local purposes, including education.

Experience with the county system in many rural parts of Alberta would also justify the conclusion that it is simpler and easier to introduce the county system in a city such as Edmonton than in almost any rural area of the Province. Within the boundaries of a coterminous rural area there are usually several local municipal governments—the rural municipal district, a town or two and several villages. There is also a school division with perhaps an independent town district and one or more independent separate school districts. To establish the county system in such an area and to arrange for the representation of towns and villages on the School Committee, as well as to take care of relationships among the various municipalities involved is usually no easy task. In some respects the county system in rural areas may be likened to a miniature federal administration. In a large city community such as Edmonton, however, these complications in the structure of local government are absent and the county system can be achieved by the simple process of welding the administrative functions of the City Council with the administrative functions of the City School Boards.

## A FEW SUGGESTIONS

Just how could this welding of local administrative functions in a city be brought about? For a few moments let us exercise our imaginations and explore a possible solution. I stress the words "possible" and "imagination" because I am not attempting to do anything more than to advance a few ideas and suggestions of my own for your consideration. Instead of the present arrangement let us suppose that we have a City Council of 17 elected officials to administer all local affairs of the City. This Council would consist of a mayor elected just as he is now by all the voters of the City, a Chairman of the Public School Committee who would also act as Deputy Mayor, elected by all the public school voters of the City, a Chairman of the Separate School Committee who would also act as Assistant Deputy Mayor, elected by all separate school voters of the City, together with eight aldermen elected by all the voters to serve in any capacity on the Council, four Public School Trustees elected by all public school voters to serve on the Public School Committee of the Council, and two Separate School Trustees elected by all separate school voters to serve on the Separate School Committee of the Council. When elected all of these 17 officials would serve as members of the City Council and would participate in all meetings of the Council. This Council would strike at least three important Committees from its own membership:

(1) A Public School Committee consisting of the Chairman and the four members elected by the public school voters, together with one or more aldermen who are public school supporters.

(2) A Separate School Committee consisting of the Chairman and the two members elected by separate school voters, together with one or more aldermen who are separate school supporters.

(3) A Municipal Committee consisting of the mayor and a fixed number of aldermen with perhaps one or two members elected as Public or Separate School Trustees.

Other Committees to deal with the administration of Health or Welfare, or other matters might also be set up. The City Council as a whole, and the Municipal Committee would discharge all the duties and responsibilities presently delegated to a City Council by The City Act, and the Public and Separate School Committees would each discharge all the duties and responsibilities now delegated to City school boards by The School Act.

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## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

By Marvin Davis Winsett

O Lord ...

We humbly bow before our secret place ... And thank Thee for the bounty of thy grace ... Teach us to value most, eternal things ... To find the happiness that giving brings ... To know the peace of misty, distant hills ... To know the joy that giving self fulfils ... To realize anew this Christmas day ... The things we keep are those we give away.

Ideals

... Amen

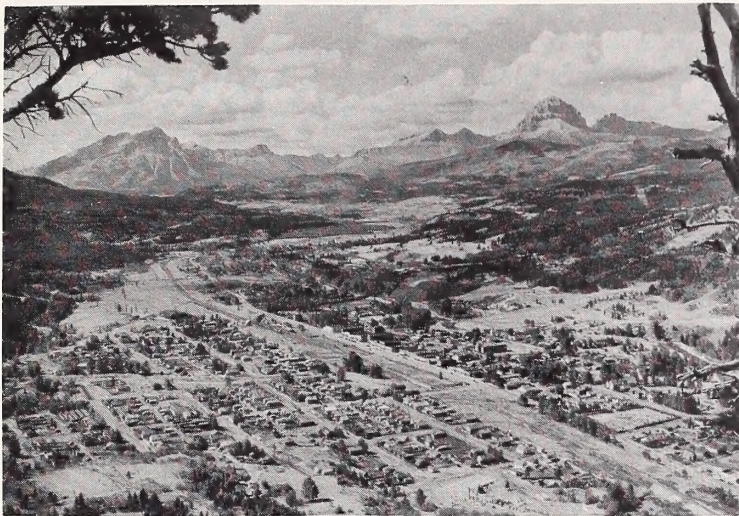




# TOWN OF THE MONTH

## BLAIRMORE

. . . FIFTY YEARS YOUNG



**HUB OF THE PASS** - Crowsnest Mountain dominates the skyline overlooking the towns of Blairmore and (in the middle distance) Coleman. o Gushul Studio

(One of the Alberta towns celebrating their Golden Jubilee in 1961 was Blairmore, sixty miles west of Fort Macleod and some eighteen miles from the top of Crowsnest Pass. With characteristic enthusiasm the "Hub of the Pass" set up activities filling September 29 and 30 and ending October 1 with church services, an old-fashioned family barbecue and a concert.

We salute the colorful Town of Blairmore which some two months ago attained a solid maturity after "a hard-working and tempestuous youth" and present without further delay an outline of its history prepared for us by Mayor William Jallep. o Ed.)

## . . . HOW IT BEGAN

By MAYOR WILLIAM JALLEP

After the Canadian Pacific Railway had completed its southern line through the Crowsnest Pass in 1898, Blairmore became the site of the first settlement. Designated simply as the "Tenth Siding", its name was changed shortly afterwards to "The Springs". Then on November 15, 1898, the C.P.R. station was named "Blairmore" after Hon. A.G. Blair, Minister of Railways in the Laurier Government and Mr. More, divisional superintendent of the C.P.R.

The first man to build a log cabin in Blairmore was Henry Lee, who still takes his daily walk to the Post Office. Two other prominent names in early Blairmore were H.E. Lyon and Felix Montalbetti. The former was a C.P.R. Agent and the latter a section foreman, and both laid claim to the townsite. Litigation over the matter stopped the progress of the town but the problem was resolved when Montalbetti sold out to Malcolm McKenzie.

In 1908 Rocky Mountain Cement Company began manufacturing with an initial plant capacity of 1200 barrels of cement per day. By 1911 the West Canadian Collieries began the development of the Greenhill Mine. The Blairmore Brick Works were manufacturing 60,000 bricks per day, and the Blairmore Brewing and Malting Company began operations with an initial capital of \$50,000. The McLaren Lumber Company was also growing into a leading lumber industry in the Pass.

It was on September 29, 1911, that Blairmore was finally proclaimed an incorporated Town, with H.E. Lyon as the first mayor. That year its population rose to over 1100.

During the past fifty years, Blairmore has seen good times and bad. It survived the hungry thirties by creating relief work on municipal projects for citizens most in need. It has also survived the crisis of the vanishing coal industry, thanks to such new industrial development as the building of the gas pipeline, the construction of the gas processing and other plants in the Pass area.

The Crowsnest Pass Municipal Hospital was opened in 1949. A 72 bed hospital, it serves all the communities of the Pass on the Alberta side of the border.

In January, 1957, school districts in the area formed the Crowsnest Consolidated School District No. 78 and soon afterwards construction began on the Isabelle Sellon High School. Officially opened in September of 1960, this beautiful building serves Blairmore, Frank and Bellevue, as well as the hamlets of Mohawk and Hillcrest. The Town of Blairmore has also two other elementary schools.

There are 77 businesses in town, four churches and several service clubs including the Lions, Elks and the Royal Canadian Legion.

Total assessment of Blairmore is close to \$2,000,000. It boasts seven and one-half miles of well-kept streets and avenues, and the recent census shows the population to be 2012 persons.

Blairmore owns and operates its own water system and electric power and light distribution system, retailing electricity to the citizens at competitive prices. The Town owns an up-to-date fire-fighting pumper and equipment, and is proud of its very efficient Volunteer Fire Department.



## SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

### Municipal District Act

Jan. 1 - Taxes are due on this date of the year in which they are imposed. Sec. 330.

Jan. 1 - Secretary-treasurer's security shall be renewed at beginning of each year. Sec. 60(2).

Jan. 5 - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of monies received and disposition thereof and submit the statement to the council at the next meeting. Sec. 61(1) (v).

Council shall as soon as practicable in each year prepare estimate of expenditures and revenues and levy taxes. Sec. 331.

Jan. 10 - Secretary-treasurer shall complete and make ready for audit accounts of previous year. Sec. 61(x).

Jan. 10 - Report shall be made to the Minister setting forth the amount spent in the previous year for the destruction of pests. Sec. 279.

Jan. 31 - Auditor to complete the audit on or before Feb. 1. Sec. 68(1).

### Town and Village Act

#### Every Month

15th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter in minutes. Sec. 67(r).

Jan. 1 - Taxes are due on this date of the year in which they are imposed. Sec. 352.

Jan. 1 - Penalties not exceeding 6% added. Sec. 373.

Jan. 10 - Finalize and prepare records for audit. Sec. 67(t).

Jan. 31 - Auditor to complete the audit on or before Feb. 1. Sec. 76(1).

### Assessment Act, 1960

Jan. 1 - Previous year's assessment shall be adopted until a new assessment is directed. Sec. 21(2). (Municipal Districts)

Jan. 1 - Before this date the secretary shall post and publish a "Notice of Preparation of Assessment Roll". Sec. 30 and 31.

Jan. 1 - Appoint members after this date to sit as a Court of Revision. Sec. 32.

Jan. 1 - Assessment slips to be mailed anytime between Jan. 1 and March 1. Sec. 28.

Jan. 31 - Assessment appeals on adopted assessment prior to this date. Sec. 37(3) (c) (d).

Assessment of property which should have been assessed not later than Dec. 31st and was missed, to be assessed forthwith. Sec. 55.

\*Gaspard, Melchior and Balthazar

### WE THREE KINGS

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain,  
Moor and mountain  
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading  
Still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

o John H. Hopkins



## ASSOCIATION HOLDS GOOD MEET

(From Page 1)

Speaking of the Alberta county system, Mr. Hooke said it had been found superior in every case and yet many local authorities seem slow in coming to this conclusion. He felt the time has come for the remaining municipal districts and school divisions to take a serious look at the county system and added that it would make him happy as Minister of Municipal Affairs if those in attendance would come back in a year or two as county councillors.

Mr. Hooke expressed strong support for the rugged individualism of the past and he said people now are calling on governments to do things that individuals used to do for themselves. He saw the function of government as doing for people collectively what they can't do individually and added that governments should go no further than to create an atmosphere where individual enterprise can do many things now expected of governments.

Referring to financial matters Mr. Hooke said he was unalterably opposed to hidden taxes. He believed it should be made plain who has to pay them. He reminded the convention that the municipal share of provincial revenues in 1961 was some \$121 million and still more was expected. With the economy slackening, he continued, the only way to get more money is to increase taxes, a course he preferred to piling up debts.

Tracing the phenomenal growth of income and sales taxes in the federal field, Mr. Hooke emphasised the need for economy and urged the delegates not to follow the path of least resistance in such matters.

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

In addition to fraternal greetings from associations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well as from organizations within Alberta, Wednesday afternoon session featured addresses by Hon. A.O. Aalborg, Minister of Education, and Ernest Tyler, Deputy Co-ordinator, Alberta Emergency Measures Organization.

Mr. Aalborg's address was a progress report of the Foundation Program during which he quoted statistics to show it was operating successfully. At least two changes will be announced soon, the Minister said; one setting out an improved formula for transportation and the other varying instructional grants according to school grades. Speaking of the overall picture Mr. Aalborg said of Alberta's 200 school boards 159 had been able to balance their budgets without increasing local school mill rates while 41 did require increases. He said school mill rates generally were somewhat lower than they would have been without the new program.

Dealing with certain criticisms directed against the Foundation Program, Mr. Aalborg said the flood of appeals by municipal councils against school budgets which had been predicted did not materialize. Only two were received, he countered. Some feared it would mean a reduced standard of education, but on the contrary, he said, there was now strong evidence of increased efficiency and higher standards in Alberta's schools.

Predictions that the program would shift the financial burden to local ratepayers have been proven equally unfounded, the Minister stated. He said the cost to ratepayers during the first year of the



AAMD EXECUTIVE - Elected by acclamation for third terms were President J.M. McKay (centre) and Vice President G.W. Moyer, seated left. Seated right is Mrs. M. Smith, secretary-treasurer, while standing are Directors W.J. Rogers, C.L. Doan and J.F. Smith.

o Alberta Government Photo

program had increased only \$5,000,000 over 1960 as compared with an increase of \$8,500,000 from 1959 to 1960.

Mr. Aalborg also denied the claim that local autonomy had been lessened under the program. He said it had encouraged local responsibility in exercise of spending and local boards have been more careful in preparing their budgets. "It has led to a more responsible exercise of local autonomy," he concluded.

Municipal responsibility in regard to civil defence and planning for national survival were two subjects outlined on Wednesday afternoon by Mr. Tyler and again by Brigadier J.S. Ross, Commander of the Alberta Area, on Thursday morning. Both speakers were questioned closely by delegates regarding the effectiveness of fallout shelters and warning systems.

Mr. Tyler urged municipal people to take five steps in preparing for any possible emergency. These are: to establish a civil defence unit in their district; to organize and train staff required to run a municipal headquarters; to prepare and publish their local emergency plans; to distribute publications on emergency measures; to accept the fact that municipal officers have a major role in the protection of citizens.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

Alberta's School Foundation Program was again the subject for discussion by a panel on Thursday morning. Formal panel discussion is an innovation for Association conventions and it was well received by all. Members were Dr. E.J. Hanson, Head of the University's Department of Political Economy; Ed Nelson, President of the Farmers' Union of Alberta; Mayor Dave Hunter of Athabasca; Dr. Gordon Mowat, Faculty of Education; with Duncan Campbell, Director of Extension, acting as moderator.

Dr. Hanson outlined features of the program and saw it as implementing well the principles of equalization (provides for a transfer of funds) and of stability (a uniform mill rate for individuals and industry). He saw increased control of expenditures leading to two possible dangers: the hindrance of teaching standards and undermining of local powers. However, he saw no indications of these dangers in the way the program is now operating. He described as "ideal" income taxes and wondered if it might not be well to use a "provincial-municipal fund for all services" much as hospital and school services are now being financed.

Second speaker was Mr. Nelson as representing the rural point of view. He said school taxes are not popular and didn't believe non-property owners were carrying a fair share of the load. He saw educational costs as a major responsibility for the national government and said farm people want to know that costs of administering schools are being reduced to a minimum.

Representing the viewpoint of the municipal administrator, Mayor Hunter also stated the costs of education must be shifted to senior governments. He thought they should pay \$2 for every \$1 of local taxes. Mayor Hunter said he was "extremely concerned" about local autonomy and opposed any "drifting of the will of the people".

Dr. Mowat, representing the viewpoint of the professional educator, criticised the name of the Foundation Program and suggested the term "Approved Cost Plan" as being more apt. He saw the possibility of "prejudicial effects" in the power of the Local Authorities Board but said county councils were an exception to the rule where school costs were at the discretion of outside authority. He praised the county form as "the only form of local government in which a degree of genuine control over school affairs can be exercised". He said public school trustees, being subservient to the municipal council and the Local Authorities Board, now occupy an "untenable position". Dr. Mowat concluded his presentation by agreeing there was "a great potential in some of the characteristics of the Foundation Program" and in his summation said the general approach has possibilities.

## MAJOR ADDRESSES

Thursday afternoon delegates listened to major addresses by Alan Brownlee, Association Solicitor, who described expropriation procedures under the new legislation in detail and by Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways, who reported on various activities of his Department and on problems of highway safety.

Relating to safety Mr. Taylor said the Department is making an exhaustive study of level crossings in Alberta. There were more than 8,000 of these he said and complete information about each is now being compiled. This will include location, gradient, horizontal and

(To Page 8)



ALBERTA'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM  
(From Page 4)

The numbers which I have used in connection with the membership of the City Council and the School Boards, and the various arrangements that I have outlined are, of course, only for the purpose of illustration, but I believe I have said enough to show that one local government for all local purposes in a city would not only be a practical and workable arrangement, but, also, that it would have some definite advantages to offer as compared with the system now in use. Let me enumerate a few of these advantages. The city-wide election of chairmen of the Public and Separate School Committees, who would also serve as Deputy Mayor and Assistant Deputy Mayor, should arouse more public interest in school issues and policies than the present system. Certainly the relatively small vote in the election of school trustees as well as the present method of choosing chairmen for city school boards leaves much to be desired. Without in any way disturbing or diminishing the constitutional rights of separate school supporters, the county system that I visualize for a city would bring the separate school system into a closer association and a good working relationship with the overall local administration of the city of which it is a part. Administration of all aspects of local affairs in the city would be better coordinated. All claims upon the taxpayers' dollar would have to be carefully scrutinized by a body jointly responsible for making decisions with respect to all phases of city administration. For these reasons I firmly believe that better planning and more responsible self-government at the local level would result if a city adopted a county system that would operate along the lines I have ventured to suggest.

TEACHER TRAINING

This fall enrolments at the Faculty of Education have soared to a total of 2,804 full-time students for an increase of 656 over last year. 378 are registered in the one-year program as compared with 344 last year. The number of students registered in the first year of the B.Ed. program rose from 690 in September 1960 to 944 this year. The number of students now in the second, third and fourth years of training stands at 1,482 as compared with 1,114 in 1960. If we include 202 students who already hold a University degree a total of 1,524 students entered the Faculty of Education for the first time this fall. It is interesting to note that 1,341 hold full matriculation standing and that all of the remaining 183 are only one Grade XII examination subject short of full matriculation. The number of students with matriculation standing that entered the Faculty of Education for the first time this year is equal to 41% of the 3,202 that graduated from Alberta High Schools with matriculation standing this year.

The increases in enrolment at the Faculty of Education during the past three years clearly indicates that in Alberta the teaching profession is presently attracting far more students and a higher proportion of outstanding students than at any time in the past. Among high school graduates, teaching is now the most popular profession.

If one scans a statistical summary of enrolments at the Faculty of Education from year to year during the past decade one is struck with three significant facts; first, that from 1950 to 1957, in a period when school boards were often in desperate straits to secure qualified teachers to staff their schools, enrolments at the Faculty remained almost constant; second, that since 1957 the number of students that have been entering the one-year program has dropped steadily; and third, that the number who choose the longer periods of training has increased at a spectacular rate during the past four or five years.

All who are interested in education in this Province are highly elated over this very happy turn of events. Parents welcome the sit-

uation and the assurance which it brings that many more well qualified teachers will be available to instruct their children. School Trustees who have striven patiently and constantly through the years to provide better salaries and improved living and working conditions for teachers will have the satisfaction of knowing that at long last their efforts are bearing much fruit. The Alberta Teachers' Association and the Faculty of Education, which have both worked to improve programs of training for teachers and to raise the standards of the teaching profession in order to attract ever growing numbers of our best high school graduates, will also feel deeply gratified.

In view of the very rapid growth in enrolments which has taken place at the Faculty of Education during the past two years and which is likely to continue for some years to come, and in view of the large influx of teachers to Alberta from other provinces and from other lands, it would now appear feasible to consider raising the minimum period of training for students who enter the Faculty for the first time from one year to two years before any certification is granted by the Department of Education. At a meeting held on October 25, 1961, the Board of Teacher Education and Certification recommended that the minimum training period be raised to two years commencing in September 1962. This recommendation is under active consideration and it is very probable that a decision will be made and announced before the end of the current year. Should this recommendation be implemented Alberta will become the first province in Canada to require new teachers to complete two years of training before they are eligible to receive a certificate or license from the Department of Education to begin practicing their profession.

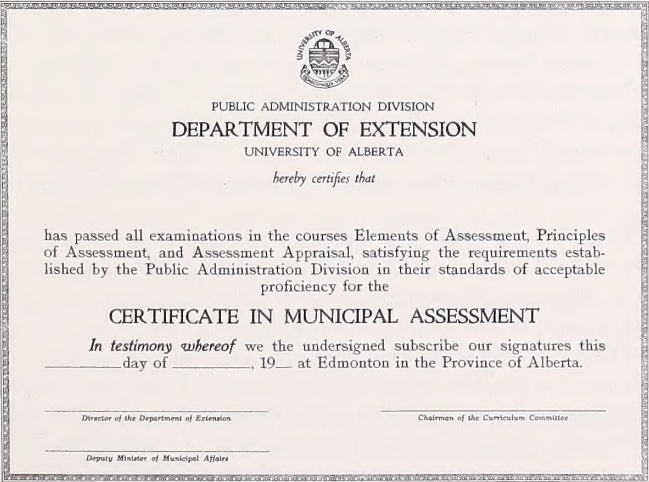
PUPIL RATIO MAY INCREASE

There is another aspect of this matter which is worthy of our serious attention. During the past ten years the ratio of pupils to teachers throughout the elementary and secondary schools of Alberta has fallen steadily until today the average enrolment stands at approximately 23.5 pupils per teacher. If the level of training among teachers continues to rise and if the minimum training requirement is raised to two years, then it would be reasonable to expect that this trend should be reversed and that the pupil ratio will increase rather than drop still further. If we accept the premise that training adds to the skill and competence of the teacher then it would seem logical to conclude that a teacher with a lot of training can successfully instruct a larger number of pupils than a teacher with little training. In short, more and better results should go hand in hand with more and better training. If the taxpayer provides additional funds to engage more highly trained teachers, then the taxpayer has a right to expect more for his money in terms of an increase in the number of pupils taught by such teachers and in better achievement on the part of those pupils. While we can all appreciate that there are many factors and combinations of factors which cause the pupil-teacher ratio to rise or fall, any increase in training requirements should be a strong force in the direction of increasing rather than decreasing the number of pupils taught by each teacher.

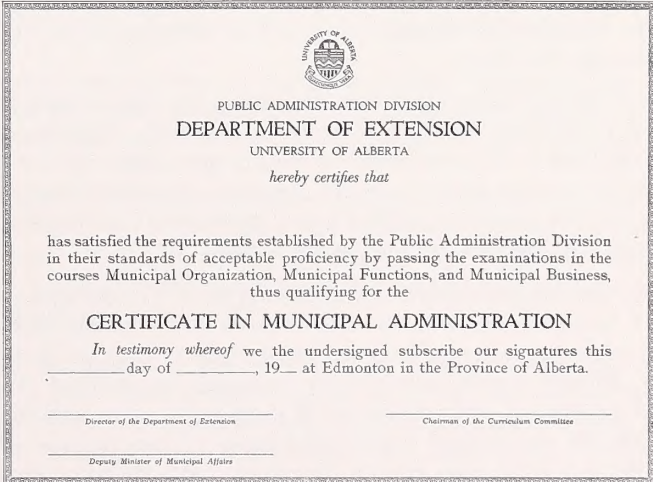
With teachers becoming more plentiful Trustees can become more selective in their choice of a teacher for a particular position. A healthy element of competition will do much to guarantee improved services and to raise standards of performance in the classroom.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to extend to you and all members of your Executive sincere appreciation for the friendly and helpful associations which the Department has had with you during the past year and to express to all Trustees the thanks and appreciation of the people and the Government of the Province for the very high calibre of service which they are continuing to render in providing good schools for our boys and girls.

AFTER THREE YEARS OF STUDY



. . . 72 Graduates in Municipal Assessment and



. . . 71 Graduates in Municipal Administration



ASSOCIATION HOLDS GOOD MEET

(From Page 6)

vertical sight lines, time of warning flashers, etc. When completed, the inventory will be made available to local councils and will be taken before the Board of Transport Commissioners for necessary action. He said some flashing lights gave only 18 seconds warning before the train reaches the crossing and declared railroads must either reduce their speeds at these crossings or increase the time for their warning lights to begin operating.

Mr. Taylor told the gathering both Donald Gordon, President of the CNR, and N.R. Crump, CPR President, have expressed their support of the survey work being done.

Mr. Taylor stated \$4,300,000 will have been spent by the end of the fiscal year on municipal culverts and bridges. This included three major structures and 212 bridges replaced with new culverts. He said the vast backlog had been overcome and the trend now was to improve major structures. More advanced planning was being required, he said.

Turning to highway signs, Mr. Taylor said he hoped municipal and county councils would gradually replace existing signs with uniform road signs described in a manual available from the Canadian Good Roads Association. He said several traffic deaths in 1960 were due to the lack of warning signs and suggested every municipality should pinpoint hazards such as hills with poor visibility where signs placed on both sides of the hill might help save lives.

The minister also dealt with cutting hay in highway or roadside ditches and said new regulations were being drawn up which would give first chance until June 15 to farmers whose land adjoins the roadway.

BANQUET SPEAKER

Guest speaker at the banquet Thursday evening was Dr. Elmer E. Roper, Mayor of Edmonton. Opening on a whimsical note, Mayor Roper quoted from some of the early by-laws of the city, one of which passed in 1893 allowed no animals except milch cows to roam at large on Jasper Avenue.

Tracing the development of municipal government, Dr. Roper then pointed out Section 92 of The British North America Act which contains five words "... municipal institutions in the Province" as one field of provincial jurisdiction. He thought it most unlikely that Fathers of Confederation would ignore the responsibilities of urban municipalities which now contain about 70 per cent of Canada's total population. Financing of municipal services has become a national responsibility and the Canadian constitution, he said, should provide for a partnership of federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Mayor Roper strongly defended the value of services purchased with tax dollars. No part of the people's income is spent to greater advantage "than the money paid for services provided by local government," he said. Quoting Galbraith's "The Affluent Society" he pointed out some of the comparisons of value received and wondered why teachers were considered as non-producers while the company making toilet seats for the school was "commendably productive".

REVIEW OF BASIC INDUSTRY

In the morning session, Friday, Hon. L.C. Halmrast, Minister of Agriculture, reviewed progress made on Alberta farms during the current year. He said agriculture was still our "basic industry" although it may be replaced by other industries some day. This has been a fairly good year, he said, except for farmers in south eastern Alberta. On a provincial basis, the average yields this year exceeded the 50 year average for all grains except wheat.

Mr. Halmrast dealt with the scarcity of fodder in the south and said transportation costs had been shared on moving 13,777 tons of hay. He thought most farmers now have an adequate supply to see them through the winter.

The Minister spent some time discussing the "Resources for Tomorrow" conference which he had attended recently. Purpose of the conference was to see what could be done to encourage and conserve Canada's renewable resources and to attempt a forecast of long-range trends. In this regard by 1980, he said there would be fewer farms but hoped the family-sized unit would remain.

Mr. Halmrast said there was a growing need for more specialists to work in his Department. He also referred to the government farm east of Edmonton where efforts are being made to improve livestock breeds. Because farming was a "very hazardous occupation" he said special privileges, such as the use of purple gas, were extended to rural people, but warned against any abuse of the privilege which might bring it to an end. For his conclusion, Mr. Halmrast thanked the councillors present for making the work of his Department easier.

LETTER TO A BANKER

It is impossible for me to make a further payment on my note.

My present financial standing is due to the effects of Government Laws, State Laws, County Laws, Corporation Laws, By-Laws, Mother-In-Laws and Outlaws, that have been foisted upon an unsuspecting public. Through these various laws I have been held down, held up, walked on, sat on, flattened and squeezed until I do not know where I am, what I am, and why I am.

These laws compel me to pay a merchant's tax, income tax, capital stock tax, sales tax, auto tax, gas tax, school tax, tobacco tax, street tax, syntax and carpet tax.

The Government has so governed my business that I do not know who owns it. I am suspected, expected, inspected, disrespected, examined and re-examined, until all I know is that I am supplicated for money for every known need, desire or hope of the human race and because I refuse to fall and go out and beg, borrow or steal money to give away, I am cursed and discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked about, lied to, lied about, held up, held down and robbed until I am nearly ruined; so the only reason I am clinging to life is to see what the H..... is coming next.

o Name Unknown

ALBERTA PLANNERS GATHER

(From Page 1)

during the afternoon session, J.H. Holloway, Board Chairman, stated that many municipalities not yet belonging to district commissions have expressed concern over local problems and are being assisted by the Provincial Board.

Panel discussions proved to be very popular with the conference. First of these, chaired by C.W. Lester, Director of Surveys with the Department of Highways, discussed the relationship of land surveyors and professional planners. It was decided by panelists Dennis Cole, Director of the Red Deer District Planning Commission; R. Sutherland and D. Usher, Alberta Land Surveyors, that the two professions complement each other.

A second panel with Mrs. C.R. Wood, M.L.A. and Chairman of the Alberta Division of the Community Planning Association, acting as moderator, discussed the extent to which planning measures affected the activities of private developers. Representing the latter were N. Truth and J.D. Ritchie of the Urban Land Institute while W. Hardcastle, Chief Planner with the City of Edmonton and S. Clarke, Director of the Old Man River District Planning Commission, presented the planner's point of view. Area of disagreement was found to be narrow and could in fact be resolved by frank discussion.

G. Hamilton, recently appointed Planning Commissioner for Edmonton, was guest speaker at the banquet held at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club on Thursday evening.

Second day of the conference opened with a discussion of summer cottage subdivisions. Chairman was Dr. V.A. Wood, Director of Lands, and panelists were R. Smith, Director, Calgary District Planning Commission; G. Walker, Alberta Land Surveyor; and N. Giffen, Edmonton District Planning Commission. Panelists agreed that considerable lakeshore space must be preserved for public use, but differed as to its acquisition and development.

Next subject entitled "Planning and control of development along highways" brought out a lively exchange of views from the panelists. Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways; Dr. K. Walters, Imperial Oil, Toronto; and A. Martin, City Planner, Calgary, all gave interesting and informative talks on the subject. Acting as chairman during this portion of the conference was Dr. J. Chalmers, Director of School Administration and member of the Provincial Planning Advisory Board.

Robert Putnam, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was moderator for the final panel consisting of Frank Marlyn, Director, Edmonton District Planning Commission; G. Moon, Assessor and Industrial Commissioner of the City of Grande Prairie; and H.N. Yates, representing the Edmonton Real Estate Board. Subject under discussion concerned the problem of agricultural land around urban centres with the consensus being that the development of such land presented problems for virtually every urban centre. It was agreed that such land should be included in the general plan of the urban centre and adopted by the rural municipalities concerned. (J.B.G.)



**EXECUTIVES FOR 1961-62****Union of Alberta Municipalities**

Hon. President - Mayor D.B. Hunter, Athabasca  
 President - Mayor K.G. Newman, Jasper Place  
 1st Vice-President - Alderman Bruce Watson, Calgary  
 2nd Vice-President - Mayor Thor Forseth, Peace River

Executive Committee: Mayor E.H. Mack, Claresholm  
 Alderman R. Osborne, Medicine Hat  
 Mayor E. Roper, Edmonton  
 Mayor T.W. Snowden, Warner  
 Councillor J.D. Clarke, Hinton  
 Mayor E. Toshach, Drumheller  
 Mayor George Repka, Grande Prairie

Secretary-Treasurer - Mayor E. Newman, Red Deer

Representatives on the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee:

Mayor Ross Ellis, High River; Mayor Harry Hays, Calgary

\* \* \* \*

**Alberta Association of Municipal Districts**

President - J.M. McKay, Brant  
 Vice-President - G.W. Moyer, Fort Saskatchewan

Directors: J.F. Smith, Fairview  
 C.L. Doan, Innisfail  
 W.J. Rogers, Millet

Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. M. Smith

Representatives on the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee:  
 Mr. McKay and Mr. Moyer

**... AND SEVEN YEARS LATER**

(From Page 2)

Most speakers made some reference to the war. Delegates were urged "to do their bit in assisting our Empire at this time". The British Navy was "the greatest fighting force in the world". In what seems from here a spontaneous outburst of patriotism, delegates contributed \$120 for the Red Cross. A resolution was passed giving priority to "returned soldiers" in all municipal openings.

Another subject dealt with was the importance of medical care for settlers in outlying districts. Outgoing President Herbert Greenfield made an eloquent appeal for municipal hospitals which, as he pointed out, could "be built and equipped for about \$3,500". He thought this sum "spread over four municipalities is a small expenditure for such a boon".

In-coming President Lamb's address on "Better Roads for Alberta" made such an impression on fraternal delegates from Saskatchewan that he was asked to repeat the talk at their convention the next month. Following Mr. Lamb's theme, Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of Public Works, (later Premier of Alberta from 1917 to 1921) made a plea for municipalities "to take over construction and maintenance of their roads, leaving the Government free to open up the way for new settlers ... and to give their attention to Bridges". He said the Government "had been criticised for helping to build roads suitable for automobile travel and had even been asked to pay over to municipalities a share of the funds derived from automobile licenses".

In his paper on "The Qualifications of a Secretary-Treasurer" W.J. Wyatt, himself Secretary-Treasurer of L.I.D. No. 424, saw members of his craft as being "bright, energetic ... with a natural aptitude for figures and a good knowledge of business principles ... with tact ... experience in meeting the public ... interested in his work and will keep up with it and in touch with anything new that turns up and pass it on to the council ... a man qualified to advise people in regard to ... crop rotation, summer fallowing, planting of fruit and shade trees and ... the care of livestock".

"The salary I believe", concluded Mr. Wyatt, "should be from \$500 up for a Local Improvement District and \$1,000 up for a Municipality".

**A DURABLE TRADITION**

The joyful strains of "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" and other carols renew a durable tradition as they fill the Christmas air.

Carols have flourished for about seven centuries. Scholars praise them as "masterpieces of tantalizing simplicity;" singers delight in their buoyant themes.

All Christian nations have carols, which are religious seasonal songs, usually happy in spirit. The singing of spring and Easter carols has declined, but Christmas carols have survived and grown in popularity. (Next Column)

**MEET THE DEPARTMENT**

Municipal administration is taken care of in eight more improvement districts of Alberta by the two staff members of the Field Service Branch introduced this month.

Paul Andre Leriger is Inspector and Assessor for I.D.'s #107, 108, 122 and 123. He makes his home at Westlock.

Alexander Temple Robson is Improvement District Inspector for I.D.'s #58, 65, 68 and 69 with headquarters at Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. Leriger was born at Spirit River September 25, 1921. Graduating from high school at Wanham, he attended Jesuit College in Edmonton. He then spent five years overseas in the Second World War, serving first with the Perth Regiment of Canada, and later with the Commando Paratroops - First Special Service Force.



P.A. LERIGER

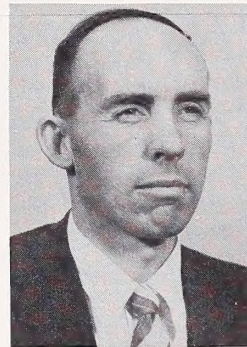
On his return to civilian life Mr. Leriger farmed for several years in the Peace River country and was postmaster at Wanham for two years. In March, 1955, he joined the Assessment Branch of the Department and two years later transferred to his present position.

Mr. Leriger does as much hunting and fishing as possible. He coaches the Westlock Midget Hockey teams, and assists with the local cub pack. Married, his two sons are Douglas, 8, and James, who is 3.

\* \* \* \*

A.T. Robson, Rocky Mountain House, was born at Youngstown June 29, 1923. When he was ten his parents moved their family to Lindale, west of Leduc. Eldest of five children, Mr. Robson well remembers the problems of the big depression.

During the Second World War, Mr. Robson served with the Edmonton Regiment in North Africa and Europe and was also a member of the Berlin Battalion which took part in the occupation of the German capital.



A.T. ROBSON

After his return home there followed several years of farming in the Lindale district and a year or two in the oilfields. His service with the Department dates from April, 1955, and he has held his present position since 1956.

Mr. Robson is a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Rocky where he teaches an adult Bible class. In 1948 he married Marjorie Plunkie of Millet. They have three children: Ian, 11; Beth, 9; and Heather, aged 7.

Carols originally were sung to accompany a ring dance, in which dancers joined hands and circled around. Many of the tunes retain a dance lilt.

About the 13th century, traditional dance melodies were adopted to religious texts. Worshipers welcomed something less severe than the old Latin hymns and more lively than plain song, or church chanting. The carol flourished. Sometimes a secular tune would be used again for worldly purpose after becoming a popular carol.

Carols were written by clergymen, poets, composers, peasants, and scholars vagantes, those products of European universities "equally at home in ale-house, in hall, in market-place, or in cloister."

Hundreds of carols were written in England between 1400 and 1647, the year the Puritan Parliament abolished Christmas celebrations and suppressed carols. The songs were kept alive by oral tradition and crudely printed broadsheets of favorites, but they did not fully regain their popularity for some 200 years.

In the middle of the 19th century, texts of several old carols came to light when a "commonplace book" of one Richard Hill, a London grocer, was found behind a bookcase. From about 1500 to 1536, Hill recorded all manner of things in the book: tables of weights, recipes, rules for the purchase of land, "a good medecyne for a cutt," and transcriptions of carols. o National Geographic Society



# PLANNING CONFERENCE 1961

PICTURE STORY



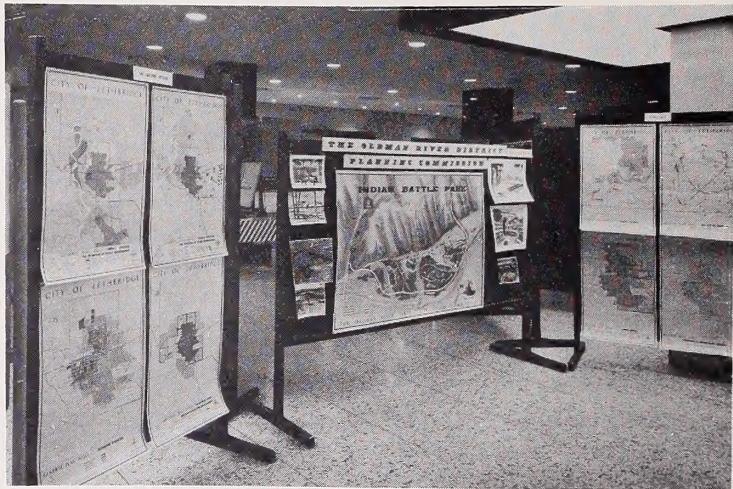
REGISTRATION began early Thursday morning with W. Hardcastle, Chief Planner with the City of Edmonton, first in line. Marjorie Fedechko and Muriel Dingman are behind the desk.



ADDRESS of welcome from the Government was delivered by Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs. J. H. Holloway, Chairman of the Provincial Planning Advisory Board opened the conference.



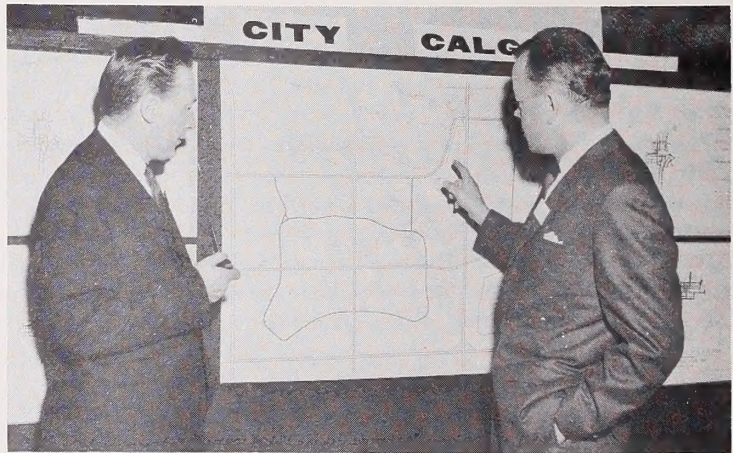
PANEL discussions were featured throughout the two-day program. Mrs. C. R. Wood, M. L. A. and Chairman of the Alberta Division of the Community Planning Association of Canada, served as moderator for one of the groups. Panelists are W. Hardcastle, S. J. Clarke, Director, Oldman River District Planning Commission; N. Trough and J. D. Ritchie, Urban Land Institute executives.



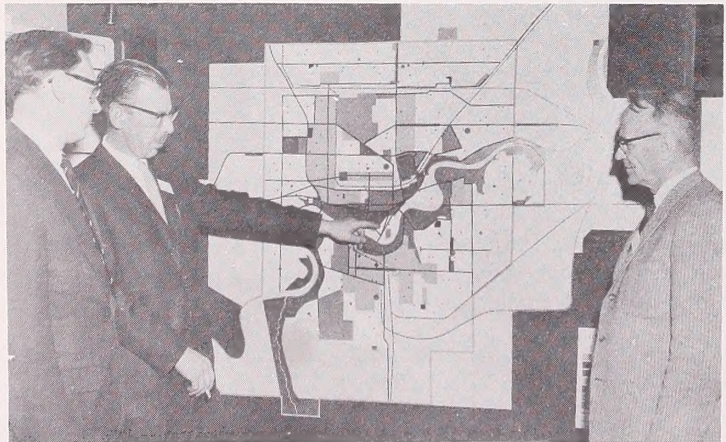
DISPLAY of the Oldman River District Planning Commission shows parts of the general plan under preparation for the City of Lethbridge.



DISPLAYS prepared by planning offices and suppliers were a popular part of the conference. Facilities of the Jubilee Auditorium proved ideal for the purpose.



MAP of road system in Calgary is admired by Alderman R. Farran and City Planner A. G. Martin.



EDMONTON - 1980 may look something like map being explained by Mr. Hardcastle to Senior Planner C. Rodgers and Alderman F. Mitchell, Chairman of the Edmonton District Planning Commission.



FIRE last spring gutted offices of the Peace River District Planning Commission. Mayor E. J. Harrington of Wanham, Commission chairman; Alderman B. Tieman, Grande Prairie; Councillor J. Powell of High Prairie; and Mayor George Repka of Grande Prairie examine some of the remains.